M 19-21 Clopper Grist Mill Montgomery Co., MD C. Mazurek October 22, 1997 Section 7.1

Addendum

Nothing has changed on the Clopper Grist Mill since the last survey of this structure was taken in 1984.

M: 19-21 Clopper Mill Ruins Clopper Road at Great Seneca Creek Gaithersburg

The ruins of this large brick and stone mill stand on the west bank of Great Seneca Creek, just south of Clopper Road near the intersection of Waring Station Road. It was a square, three-story grist mill, with basement and first floor levels of local fieldstone and a third story of brick.

The original (Sybert) mill was apparently rebuilt by Maccubbin, then underwent substantial modifications during the time it was owned by Clopper (1812-1868).

The ruins bear the initials of Francis C. Clopper and the date 1834.

Recent exacavations in the Seneca Creek valley have disturbed the old mill dam and mill races. The Woodlands Mansion was demolished in the 1960s.

The earliest mention of a mill on this site occurs in 1777, when Nicholas Sybert conveyed his mill and watercourses with 222 acres to Benjamin Spyker. The site was along an early east-west route. Zachariah Maccubbin purchased land in the area in 1774, agreeing 9 years later to buy the mill from William Benson. After Benson's death left Maccubbin with no clear title, resulting in years of litigation, Maccubbin was forced to sell his property in 1808. (Assessments indicate that between 1792 and 1795 he tore down the old mill and built a new one.

Francis Cassatt Clopper bought the mill and 541 acres in 1810. He built a mansion on the hill east of the mill, which he called "Woodlands," established a

woolen factory, donated land for St. Rose of Lima mission church, designed the 1840 Courthouse, and was a catalyst for the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O. He left his lands and mill to his daughter Mary and her husband William Rich Hutton. Hutton was a distinguished engineer of world reputation.

The late date of Clopper Mill's operation is not recorded, but the years 1850-1880 were probably the most active. The railroad generally spelled the end of small commercial mills like this. The property was acquired by the State in 1955 as part of Seneca Creek State Park.

ADDENDA

In 1984 the Department of Natural Resources contracted with Joe Getty to conduct a follow-up survey of selected historic properties on DNR lands. DNR funded the field survey and photography but did not prepare finished copy. The attached photocopy pages were forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust to supplement existing files. All original material and photographs remain in the possession of the Department of Natural Resources under the supervision of Ross Kimmel (x3771).

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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7. Des	cription				Survey	No.	n 19-21	Balt-Filteran
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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10. Geographical Data	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

The Clopper Gristmill is a stone and brick ruin which originally made up a three-story structure built into a slope along the Great Seneca Creek. The ruin now contains most of the east and south walls and a portion of the west wall that leads into a large rock forming an embankment. The first two stories of the structure were constructed of stone. The stone work has large quoins and large stone lintels. The east and south facades have ground level fenestration with an entrance and two windows on the south facade and a number of small openings on the east (Great Seneca Creek) facade. The second story, which was the ground level on the west and north facades, had a single doorway on the east facade and what appears to be two windows on the south facade. In the remaining wall of the west facade is one window and the base of one opening which appears to be a door. The north wall has fully collapsed. The third story was constructed of brick and contained two windows on the south facade and what appears to be a doorway on the east facade. An early photograph of the mill attached to the 1979 survey form shows the intact mill and the fenestration on the west and south facades.

The Clopper Gristmill ruins are located on the south side of Clopper Road at the intersection of Great Seneca Creek. This site is about 1.7 miles east of Maryland Route 118. The east wall of the mill is located right along Great Seneca Creek. It is a sharply sloping site and the west wall has an unusual feature being built against a solid rock that runs most of the full-length of the structure.

The mill was destroyed by a fire in 1947.

Significance

The Clopper Gristmill has a history typical of the many gristmills in the central Maryland region. It was constructed in 1834 by Francis Cassatt Clopper, of a prominent Montgomery County family that lived at an estate known as "Woodlands."

The mill was constructed as a three-story structure with the first two stories constructed of stone and the third of brick. The mill was first powered by an overshot wheel and converted at a later date to an undershot wheel. The mill was updated as technology changed during the nineteenth century. It was closed down in the early twentieth century and was destroyed by fire in 1947.

The Clopper family moved into Montgomery County from Baltimore City in the early nineteenth century. Land records indicate that Francis Clopper purchased several parcels of land in the area. One of the properties he purchased in March 1812 from William Benson that contained 541 acres with a log and frame dwelling and a mill and mill damn originally belonging to Zachariah MacCubbin (see reference in 1979 Survey Form). Clopper also ran a mid-nineteenth century ruling mill and operated a brick yard.

1.	Name: Clopper Mill Ruins
2.	Planning Area/Site Number: 19/21 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7 Coordinate D-20
	Address: Clopper Road Gaithersburg, Md.
5.	Classification Summary
	Category structure/site Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC Ownership public Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory Public Acquisition N/A Status unoccupied
	Accessible yes; unrestricted Federal State x County x Local Present use park
6.	Date: 1795, 1834 7. Original Owner: Nicholas Sybert
8.	Apparent Condition
	a. ruins b. altered c. original site
9.	Description: The ruins of this large brick and stone mill stand on the west bank of Great Seneca Creek, just south of Clopper Road near the intersection of Waring Station Rd. It was a square, three-story grist mill, with basement and first floor levels of local fieldstone and a third story of brick. The original (Sybert) mill was apparently rebuilt by Maccubbin, then underwent substantial modifications during the time it was owned by Clopper
0	(1812-1868). The ruins bear the initials of Francis C. Clopper and the date 1834.
4	Recent excavations in the Seneca Creek valley have disturbed the old mill dam and mill races. The Woodlands Mansion was demolished in the 1960s.
10.	Significance: The earliest mention of a mill on this site occurs in 1777, when Nicholas Sybert conveyed his mill and watercourses with 222 acres to

Benjamin Spyker. The site was along an early east-west route. Zachariah Maccubbin purchased land in the area in 1774, agreeing 9 years later to buy the mill from William Benson. After Benson's death left Maccubbin with no clear title, resulting in years of litigation, Maccubbin was forced to sell his property in 1808. (Assessments indicate that between 1792 and 1795 he tore down the old mill and built a new one.)

Francis Cassatt Clopper bought the mill and 541 acres in 1810. He built a mansion on the hill east of the mill which he called "Woodlands" established a woolen factory, donated land for St. Rose of Lima mission church, designed the 1840 Court House, and was a catalyst for the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O. He left his lands and mill to his daughter Mary and her husband William Rich Hutton. Hutton was a distinguished

engineer of world reputation.

The last date of Clopper Mill's operation is not recorded, but the years 1850-1880 were probably the most active. The railroad generally spelled the end of small commercial mills like this. The property was acquired by the State in 1955 as part of Seneca Creek State Park.

- 11. Researcher and date researched: William E. Hutchinson July 1979
- 13. Date Compiled: Sept. 1979 14. Designation 12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian Approval

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC	Clopper Mill (Wood	llands Mill, Ma	accubbin's Mill)	
AND/OR COMMON	Clopper's Mill Ru	ins		
2 LOCATIO	N			
STREET & NUMBER	Clopper Road at	Great Seneca	Creek	
CITY, TOWN	aithersburg	VICINITY OF	congressional dist	RICT
STATE		VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
	aryland	* :	Montgomery	
3 CLASSIFI	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRE	SENT USE
DISTRICT BUILDING(S)	XPUBLIC SPINATE	_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
TESTRUCTURE	PRIVATE BOTH	X_UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	XPARK —PRIVATE RESIDENC
XSITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMEN	-
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
4 OWNER (OF PROPERTY			
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	eca Creek State Par	k	Telephone #: 9	924-2127
STREET & NUMBER	12500 Clopper Ro	ad	<i>«</i>	
CITY, TOWN	aithersburg	VICINITY OF		zip code 20760
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STREET & NUMBER	Montgomery Aven	ue		
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6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		20070
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED X RUINS

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₹_ORIGINAL SITE

_G00D __FAIR

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__MOVED DATE_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ruins of this large brick and stone mill, destroyed by an arsonist shortly after World War II, stand on the right (west) bank of Great Seneca Creek just south of Clopper Road near the intersection of Waring Station Rd.

A 1974 description of the ruins says in part: a/

This was a square, 3-story grist mill that is now in a ruinous condition. The basement and first floor levels are built of local fieldstone and the windows here are topped with heavy stone lintels. There are stone quoins at each corner of the building. The third story is built of brick. There is no roof on the structure and most of the walls, while standing, have collapsed to some degree, particularly on the east side. The in and out races are mostly intact, but over-grown and filled with water and debris Allegedly, the mill was in good shape when burned by a squatter in the early 1950's.

Although the ruins bear the initials of former owner Francis C. Clopper and the date "1834", much of the fabric of the mill dates back to before 1800.

The original mill on this site was established at the time of the Revolutionary War or even earlier, b/ probably by Nicholas Sybert. Zachariah Maccubbin, who purchased the property in 1783, evidently tore down the earlier mill and rebuilt it on much the lines that survive today. In 18 when Maccubbin lost the property after a protracted legal dispute with the heirs of the former owner, an advertisement described the mill as being

38 by 42 feet, three stories high, one of which is stone, and the others brick, with two water wheels, three pair of stones...all in good repair. Also a saw mill, stables, smith ship, dwelling house and store houses.... c/

The mill evidently underwent substantial modifications during the time it was owned by Clopper (1812-1868), but these do not appear to have greatly

changed its appearance.

Recent excavations in the Seneca Creek valley have disturbed the old mill dam and mill races. d/ The age and full extent of these structures have not been determined. They were modified in the 1830s by Clopper, but probably date to the Maccubbin reconstruction c. 1795. The Woodlands Mansion FOOTNOTES: was demolished in the 1960s.

a. Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, quoted in Joseph M. McNamara, "The Archeological Resources of Seneca Creek State Park", 1977 (Maryland Geological Survey, Division of Archeology, Report submitted to Land Planning Services).

b. The earliest reference to a mill on the site appears in Land Records of

Frederick County, Liber RP folio 13 (April 25, 1777), in which mention is

made of "improvements, mills, ways, water and watercourses".

c. Frederick-Town Herald, June 13, 1807.

d. See Dr. June Evans, "Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of the Great Seneca Relief Sewers"; also McNamara, op. cit.

PERIOD	AF	*		
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
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X_1800-1899	X COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	X_INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History

SPECIFIC DATES 1795, 1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the ruinous fabric of Clopper Mill probably does not date back much beyond 1800, the site is that of an older mill that dates from at least the Revolutionary War. The earliest mention of a mill on this site occurs in 1777, when Nicholas Sybert, "yeoman", conveyed to Benjamin Spyker (likewise styled "yeoman"), for ± 1531 in current money, 222 acres of land "with all and singular the improvements, mills, ways, water and watercourses", etc. $\underline{1}$ / Sybert had patented the land nine years earlier, and it was evidently he who first established a mill there. $\underline{2}$ /

The site is likewise important because it marks one of the earliest ist-west routes across Montgomery County -- not only in Colonial times and the early years of the Republic but far earlier, when what is now Clopper Road was an Indian trail as yet untrodden by Europeans. 3/ The place is also mentioned in some of the earliest Maryland state records of public roads in Montgomery County. An Act of Assembly in 1792 4/ proposed to open a road "from the line between Frederick and Montgomery counties to Thomas Morton's mills, from thence to the mills of Zachariah Maccubbin, and from thence to intersect the main road leading to Georgetown and the Federal city".

Translated to today's landmarks, this is the old road from the Mouth of Monocacy to Oakland Mills (where the road and railroad bridge cross the Little Monocacy east of Dickerson) and thence to Barnesville, then along the road to Gaithersburg via Boyds and Clopper Road. This road was considerably widened and improved in 1807. 5/ Even before this period, in 1778 when Maccubbin was newly arrived in the Seneca Creek area, the Levy Court records show an award of £2.10.8 to recompense him for land taken for a public road. 6/

Benjamin Spyker, who bought the mill from Sybert in 1777, was a captain in the Maryland "Flying Camp", one of two from the Gaithersburg-Germantown area. He is described in early land records as "of Georgetown", 7/ but he must have been resident at least part of the time in the Seneca Creek area, for many of the men he recruited for his company of militia came from farms and plantations along the Great Seneca. 8/ Spyker immediately resold most of the property to William Benson and James Simpson, 9/ and a few months later Benson acquired sole title. 10/ nson was a planter and mill-owner with properties further up Seneca creek.

Zachariah Maccubbin purchased 146 acres of land nearby in 1774, 11/

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Sec. 8: Significance

and set up a modest tobacco plantation. He was attracted by the prospects of the nearby mill property and in March 1783 agreed to pay Benson £4,000 for the grist mill and sawmill and 800 acres of land, with any variation in acreage which might be found by a survey to be compensated for at the rate of £3.10.0 an acre. $\frac{12}{}$

Apparently Maccubbin paid Benson £3,000 or £3,500 of the purchase price outright and gave him a written pledge for the remainder, declaring that he would either pay the remaining £500 current money in gold or silver by 2 January 1790, together with accrued interest, or if he failed to do so would have to pay £1,000. 13/Subsequently they agreed (in March 1790) that Benson would buy back part of the land, but Benson died before signing this paper. 14/

Benson's death left Maccubbin with no deed or clear title to his land and mill, uncertain as to how much land was to revert to Benson's heirs under the unsigned repurchase agreement of 1790, and with a debt of £1,000 to the estate under the terms of the bond he had signed in 1783, for he had failed to pay the required £500 by the January 1790 deadline.

Sometime between 1792 and 1795 Maccubbin tore down the old mill and set about building a new and finer one. Whereas the 1783 assessment lists the mill on Benson's property — "l Grist mill saw d° log dwelling house 24 by 30," etc. $\frac{15}{}$ — and a 1792 law mentions "the mills of Zachariah Maccubbin," $\frac{16}{}$ the mill disappears from the 1793-1797 assessments, $\frac{17}{}$ nor is it shown on a 1795 map of the area that does mention "Zachariah Maccubbin's Tobacco house." $\frac{18}{}$

The Benson heirs and Maccubbin continued to argue about Maccubbin's unfulfilled pledge to pay the remaining £1,000. Eventually

Sec. 8: Significance

Benson's daughter, Mary, and her husband, Nicholas Pagno, brought suit. 19/ They complained that Naccubbin was cutting down timber that was rightfully theirs, and later they instituted an ejectment suit. Maccubbin got a temporary injunction but was ultimately ejected. 20/ He complained to the Court of Chancery that the Bensons were trying to both force him to pay for the land and simultaneously take it away from him, and that they had "most cruely swept away all the horses, stock, corn, wheat ... threatening to turn him and his family out of doors in poverty and distress." 21/

After several years of legal maneuvering and a careful resurvey of the lands and transactions involved, a jury was empaneled on 2 March 1807 which found for the plaintiffs. 22/ Maccubbin was ordered to pay the Pagnos the disputed £1,000 with interest from 1784, plus damages and costs, altogether amounting to £3,499.4.9 1/2 plus 5,254 pounds of tobacco.

A forced sale of Maccubbin's property was ordered. This was completed in January 1808, when Allen Simpson, a son-in-law of the late William Benson, paid \$9,600 for the mill, 545.6 acres of land, all the mill equipment and furnishings, and other goods and possessions belonging to Maccubbin. 23/ This sum fell about \$100 short of the total assessment, which with sheriff's fees and other costs added on now amounted to £3635.9.0., equivalent to \$9,694.53. Maccubbin was ruined and moved away from this part of Montgomery County.

Two years later the Benson heirs (William Benson junior, Ninian Benson, Allen Simpson and his wife Sarah Simpson) sold the mill and 541 acres to Francis Cassatt Clopper. 24/

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Clopper, born in Baltimore in 1786, was a successful Philadelphia merchant who had abandoned trade in 1811 to embark on a new career as a country gentleman. He built a mansion on the hill east of the mill, which he called "Woodlands". Clopper was a Protestant, but his wife, Ann Jane Byrne, was a fervent Catholic, and their children were reared in that faith. At the time they settled in the area, there were no Catholic churches between Rockville and Barnesville; services were held at Woodlands and other private homes whenever traveling priests could be persuaded to visit.

In 1820 Clopper deeded all his properties to his wife's brother and sister, Patrick J. Byrne and Mrs. Ellen M. Maher, and to Thomas Hurley of Philadelphia, to hold in trust for his wife Anns. $\frac{25}{\text{At}}$ At the same time he made provision for the allotment of an acre of land to the Prince George's parish of the Roman Catholic Church. $\frac{26}{\text{This}}$ became the site of St. Rose of Lima mission, the first Catholic church built in this part of the county (1836).

In addition to overseeing the operation of his mills on Seneca Creek, Clopper established a woolen factory (also referred to in some accounts as a blanket factory). Its whereabouts is not known exactly; it is thought to have been constructed on Long Draught Branch and may be identical to the Long Draught Mill (DA: 18 MO 32) mapped and partly excavated in 1971 by members of the Archeological Sockety of Maryland under the direction of Tyler Bastian, State Archeologist. If so, it is now submerged beneath the waters of a recreational lake within Seneca Creek State Park. 27/

Besides his farms, the woolen factory and the mills, Clopper busied himself with public affairs. A man of some artistic talent --

Sec. 8: Significance

he was an uncle of the painter Mary Cassatt — he designed the old (1840) Rockville court house (demolished 1890). $\frac{28}{}$ He was one of the principal backers of the Metropolitan Railroad in the 1850s, precursor to today's B+O Metropolitan Branch, and was instrumental in persuading the B+O to take over the venture when the original plan failed. $\frac{29}{}$ When the Metropolitan Branch was finally built, after the Civil War, Clopper gave the railroad a small parcel of land for a station, which was subsequently named for him. $\frac{30}{}$

Clopper died in December 1868, too soon to see the arrival of the trains for which he had campaigned so many years. Before his death, in 1863, he had deeded his lands and the mill to his daughter Mary Augusta Hutton, retaining a life interest for himself and his daughter Ellen M. Clopper. 31/

Mary Augusta's husband, William Rich Hutton, was a distinguished engineer of world reputation. In his youth he was assistant engineer to Capt. Montgomery Meigs on the project to build the Washington Aqueduct and Cabin John bridge (for many years the world's longest single-span bridge, and still one of the most beautiful). 32/ He had accompanied the U.S. Volunteers expedition to California during the Mexican War, and 95 sketches he made of that expedition are in the Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif. He took part briefly in the California gold rush of 1849, panning just enough gold at Sutter's Mill to make a wedding ring for his bride when he married in 1855. 33/

Hutton was successively chief engineer of the Annapolis water works, chief engineer of the C+O Canal, consulting engineer for the Croton Aqueduct in New York, and chief engineer for the Washington Bridge over the Harlem River and the Hudson Tunnel in New York.

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He was awarded the diploma of the Paris Exposition of 1878 for his design of locks for the Kanawha Canal. 34/

The last date of operation of Clopper Mill is not recorded.

Records are scanty. Newspaper advertisements point to 1850-1880
as probably the period of greatest activity; the last hired millers were Barton Trail and William Jones. 35/ The coming of the railroad -- for which Clopper had worked so hard -- generally spelled the end for small commercial mills such as this, for it facilitated long-distance shipment of grain and flour and by introducing the use of coal-fired steam engines liberated milling from its traditional dependence on the erratic flow of streams along the Atlantic fall line.

The Huttons had a son, but he never married. After their death the Woodlands mansion, the mill and other property passed into the hands of two daughters, Miss Rose Hutton and Mrs. Ellen Elizabeth Hutton Caulfield, until acquired by the State in 1955 as part of Seneca Creek State Park.

NOTES

- 1/ Land Records of Frederick County, RP 13 (25 April 1777).
- 2/ "Pleasant Valley" (patent BC + GS 37/251, 1768); see also "Pleasant Fields" (patent BC + GS 37/162, 1767). Predecessors of "Pleasant Valley" were "The Retreat," 1748; "The Gray Rock," 1754; and "West's Chance," 1760.
- 3/ See William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," Maryland Historical Magazine, 15:364 and 389 (1920).
- 4/ Acts of the Maryland General Assembly, Session of 1792, Ch. 26.

- Sec. 8: Significance (Notes)
 - 5/ Montgomery County Levy Court records, 1807.
 - 6/ ibid., November 1778.
 - 7/ Land Records of Frederick County, W 451, (22 November 1775).
- 8/ Archives of Maryland, 18:42-44. See also Gaithersburg centennial history (1978), 3.
 - 9/ Land Records of Frederick County, RP 15 (25 April 1777).
 - 10/ Land Records of Montgomery County, A 59 (5 September 1777).
 - 11/ Land Records of Frederick County, V 663 (31 May 1774).
- 12/ Bond of Conveyance, William Benson to Zachariah Maccubbin, 7 March 1783, in Montgomery County Court Judgments 1807-1816, folio 84.
 - 13/ Court Judgments, op. cit., 73.
- 14/ ibid., 85. The area to be transferred back to Benson was later found to total 248 acres. At the agreed price of 55 shillings an acre, this would have represented a rebate of £682.
- 15/ Montgomery County Assessment Book, 1783, Upper New Found Land and Seneca Hundreds.
 - 16/ Acts 1792, loc. cit.
- 17/ Montgomery County Assessment Book, 1793-1797, Fourth District, 161.
 - 18/ Land Records of Montgomery County, Liber F-6 folio 195 (plat).
 - 19/ Court Judgments, op. cit., folios 71-106.
- 20/ John McGrain, "Clopper Mill", in "Molinography of Maryland," MHT (draft).
 - 21/ Chancery Papers, H.B. 543 and 3462, quoted in McGrain, op. cit.
 - 22/ Court Judgments, op. cit., 102.
 - 23/ ibid., 106.
 - 24/ Land Records of Montgomery County, P 541 (11 March 1812).
 - 25/ ibid., V 160 (9 May 1820).

Sec. 8: Significance

(Notes)

- 26/ ibid.
- 27/ Joseph M. McNamara, "The Archeological Resources of Seneca Creek State Park," 52; also McGrain, discussions of Clopper Mill and Clopper Woolen Manufactory.
 - 28/ J. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, 784-785.
- 29/ William E. Hutchinson, "Gaithersburg and the Railroad," in Gaithersburg centennial history (1978), 12-14.
 - 30/ Land Records of Montgomery County, EBP 21/183 (10 June 1868).
 - 31/ ibid., JHG 9/290 (1 October 1863).
 - 32/ Hutchinson, op. cit., 35.
 - 33/ McGrain, Clopper's Mill, op. cit.
 - 34/ Hutchinson, op. cit., 35.
 - 35/ McGrain, op. cit.

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		ADUICAI	REFERENCES
CHIVIAILIK	DIDLIUNIN	$\Delta \Gamma \Pi U \Delta M$	

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Evans, Dr. June, "Preliminary Archeological Reconnaissance of the Great Seneca Relief Sewers"

Frederick-Town Herald, June 13, 1807.

Gaithersburg centennial history (1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT SHEET H)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

		DROBERTY
ACREAGE OF	NUMINATED	PRUPERIT

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site encompasses the flat land where the mill stands, the old bridge across the creek which dates from some previous version of Clopper Road, and the area taken in by the in-and out-millraces and the old millpond upstream.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William E. Hutchinson

ORGANIZATION		DATE
Sugarloaf Regional	Trails	July 24, 1979
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE
Box 87	*	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
Dickerson		Maryland 20753

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

Sec. 9: Major Bibliographical References (continued)

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Land Records of Frederick County

Land Records of Montgomery County

Marye, William B., "The Old Indian Road," in MHM 15:364 (1920).

McGrain, John, "Clopper Mill" (draft section of "Molinography of Maryland")

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Montgomery County records:

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Levy Court records, 1776-1810

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland (1882)

Road plats, Plat Book 73 folios 7031 and 7032 (1963)

Doris B. Cobb, "Mills on the Seneca and Their Tributaries" (1968)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 1604434414 M 19-21

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Clopper Gri	st Mill			
AND/OR COMMON				
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
South side	of Clopper Road (M h the Great Seneca	aryland Route 117	7) at its inte	
CITY, TOWN WITE		vicinity of Germantown		101
STATE			COUNTY	
Maryland	ATTIONI	<u>r</u>	Montgomery	
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM X_PARK
$_{\perp}$ BUILDING(S) X STRUCTURE	PRIVATE BOTH	∠UNOCCUPIED ∠WORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
		V-0	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	-INDUSTRIAL	
OWNER OF	BEING CONSIDERED F PROPERTY	NO	MILITARY	X_OTHER: ruir
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven	F PROPERTY ryland (Department	NO	_MILITARY	10
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY, TOWN	F PROPERTY ryland (Department	NO of Natural Te	MILITARY elephone #:	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis	F PROPERTY ryland (Department ue	_NO of Natural Tender Resources)	_MILITARY elephone #: state, z Maryland 214	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION	F PROPERTY ryland (Department	_NO of Natural Tender Resources) vicinity of Li	_MILITARY elephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #:	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE.	F PROPERTY ryland (Department ue N OF LEGAL DESCR	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF LIFE	_MILITARY elephone #: state, z Maryland 214	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE.	F PROPERTY ryland (Department ue	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF LIFE	_MILITARY elephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #:	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	F PROPERTY ryland (Department ue N OF LEGAL DESCR	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF LIFE	_MILITARY elephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #:	ip, code
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY. TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, STREET & NUMBER	ryland (Department ue NOF LEGAL DESCR	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF LIFE	_MILITARY slephone #: state, z Maryland 214 iber #: olio #:	ip code 401
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY. TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, STREET & NUMBER CITY. TOWN ROCKVI	FPROPERTY ryland (Department ue NOF LEGAL DESCR ETC Montgomery Count	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF RIPTION Live y Court House	_MILITARY slephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #: olio #:	ip code 401
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY. TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, STREET & NUMBER CITY. TOWN ROCKVI	ryland (Department ue NOF LEGAL DESCR	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF RIPTION Live y Court House	_MILITARY slephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #: olio #:	ip code 401
NAME State of Ma STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, STREET & NUMBER CITY.TOWN ROCKVI	FPROPERTY ryland (Department ue NOF LEGAL DESCR ETC Montgomery Count	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF EIPTION Lift Ey Court House	MILITARY slephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #: olio #: STATE Maryland	ip code
State of Ma Street & Number Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, STREET & NUMBER CITY.TOWN ROCKVI REPRESEN TITLE	FPROPERTY ryland (Department ue NOF LEGAL DESCR ETC Montgomery Count	of Natural Teresources) VICINITY OF EIPTION Lift Ey Court House	_MILITARY slephone #: STATE, Z Maryland 214 iber #: olio #:	ip code 101

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

X-UNALTERED __ALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

GOOD __FAIR

X_RUINS __UNEXPOSED __MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clopper grist mill, destroyed by fire in 1947, and subsequently ignored by its present owners, the Department of Natural Resources, now stands in ruin on the south side of Clopper Road (Maryland Route 117) at its intersection with the Great Seneca Creek. Extensive and potentially harmful vegetation obscures these ruins, which essentially are two walls, foundations, and the mill race, from immediate view along Clopper Road.

The mill was originally an impressive three story fieldstone, brick and timber structure constructed in 1834 by Francil Cassatt Clopper. His initials, F.C.C., cut into a stone of one of the walls confirms this date. The grist mill was first powered by an overshot wheel, then converted to an undershot wheel. It has been reported that the mill was repaired and remodeled after 1880.

	PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
	PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTUR	RERELIGION		
	1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
	1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
	1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION .	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
ĸ	1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
	X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
	1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	X_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY)		
			INVENTION		local history		

SPECIFIC DATES 1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clopper grist mill, although now in ruins, is one of only two extant structure remaining from the Clopper/Hutton estate, Woodlands, the oldest portions of which dated from the last quarter of the Eighteenth Century. In addition, the mill itself remained in continuous service to the local farmers, grinding a variety of corn and grains, for over 100 years.

When Clopper moved into Montgomery County from Baltimore City in the early years of the Nineteenth Century, land records indicate that he purchased several parcels of land in the area. In March 1812 he purchased 541 acres from William Benson and others containing not only a log and frame dwelling, which would later be enlarged and become known as Woodlands, but also a mill and mill dam originally belonging to Zachariah Maccubbin. 1

Ann Byre Clopper, wife of Francis Clopper, wrote in an 1823 letter, that because "hunger has been widespread in Montgomery County" bread was distributed to "500 mouths . . . from our mill." Although this/these mill(s) have not been precisely located, it appears certain that a pre-1834 mill was in operation on the Clopper estate.

In addition to the 1834 grist mill, Clopper also built a woolen mill which reputedly manufactured blankets during the Civil War and also operated a brick yard.

Clopper grist mill, along with the Seneca sandstone cutting mill, which is in similar ruinous condition, and Black Rock mill which is structurally somewhat more in tact, represent the lonely survivors of a once prosperous network of mills along the Seneca Creek and its tributaries. Ironically, all three are owned by the Department of Natural Resources.

¹Montgomery County Story "The Woodlands". Volume VI, No. 2, February 1963.

²Ibid.

es, lung by the property

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farquahar, Roger Brooke: Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History. Monumental Printing Co., Baltimore, 1952. McGrain, John; Molinography of Montgomery County

Montgomery County Story, "Woodlands", Volume VI, No. 2. Montgomery County Historical Society, Feb. 1963

Vertical Files. Montgomery County Historical Society. Rockville.

CONSTRUCTION OF S

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	

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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bridget Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor	February 1979			
ORGANIZATION	DATE			
Maryland Historical Trust	269-2438			
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE			
Shaw House, 21 State Circle	Maryland			
CITY OR TOWN	STATE			
Annapolis	Maryland			

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 1604434414

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME			
HISTORIC			
Clopper's Mill Ruins			
AND/OR COMMON			
2 LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER			
Clopper Road and Grea	t Seneca Creek		
CITY, TOWN	0 0011000 010011	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	СТ
Germantown	VICINITY OF		
STATE		COUNTY	
Maryland		Montgomerv	
3 CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICTPUBLIC:	ØCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	V PARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECTIN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED -	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
BEING CONSIDERED	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME State of Maryland-Maryland STREET & NUMBER	l Park Service	Telephone #:	Account to the second s
CITY, TOWN		STATE, Z	ip code
Annapolis	VICINITY OF	Maryland	
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	Tibon II.	
		Liber #:	
COURTHOUSE.	- b	Folio #:	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery Cour	nty Courtnouse		
STREET & NUMBER			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	
Rockville		Maryland	
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE			
DATE	FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS			
CITY, TOWN		STATE	

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

M:19-21

__EXCELLENT

__GOOD

-FAIR

DETERIORATED

✓RUINS —UNEXPOSED _VNALTERED

CHECK ONE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This was a square, three-story, grist mill that is now in a ruinous condition. The basement and first floor levels are built of local fieldstone and the windows here are topped with heavy stone lintels. There are stone quoins at each corner of the building. The third story is built of brick. There is no roof on the structure and most of the walls, while standing, have collapsed to some degree, particularly on the east side. The in and out-races are mostly intact, but overgrown and filled with water and debris. The area of the former mill pond is the grassy, low plain on the east side of Clopper Road.

ERIODREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH		
			LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	UTERATURE	SCULPTURE
<u>_1</u> 600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>×</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TBANSPORTATION
1_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Once the center of many varied milling and related industrial activities for Montgomery Co. Mills operated on this location since the 18th Century, but greatly expanded under the ownership of Francis C. Clopper, a remarkable man with many diversified interests and accomplishments.

Allegedly, the mill was in good shape when burned by a squatter during the early 1950's.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Cobb, Doris. MILLS OF THE SENECA. (Mont. Co. Hist. Soc.)
- 2) McGrain, Jack. MOLINOGRAPHY OF MD. (Maryland Hist. Soc.)
- Farguhar, R.B. OLD HOMES AND HISTORY OF MONT. CO. (1961) (article on "Woodlands")
- Clopper Family Papers (Mont. Co. Hist. Soc.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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		UU	11		ALA		بده	201	7 7	L 4 3	4

OF NOMINATED			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West forest

RESTURES.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

DATE 12/11/74 M-NCPPC TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER 589-1480 8787 Georgia Ave. STATE CITY OR TOWN

Marvland Silver Spring

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Maryland Historical Trust RETURN TO:

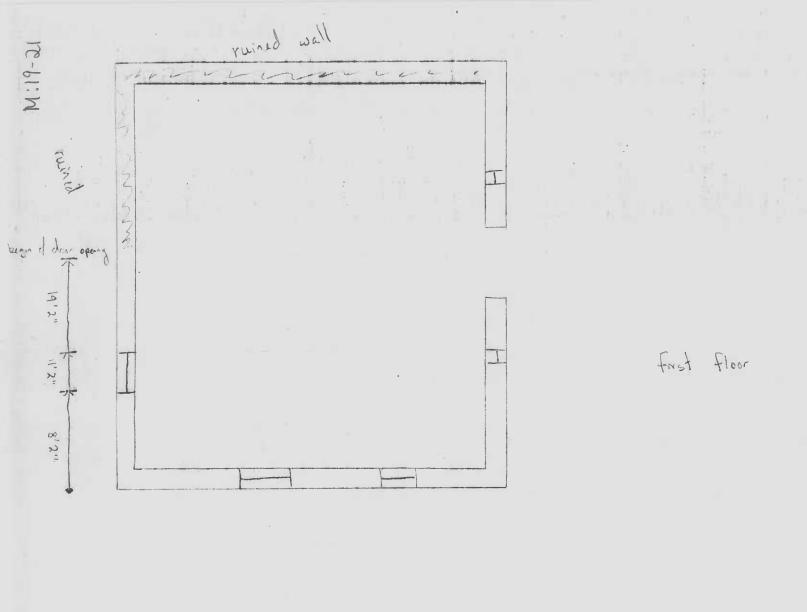
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

M 19-21 CLOPPER GRIST MILL Clopper Rd., Gernantown

ground Floor



scale - /s inch = I foot

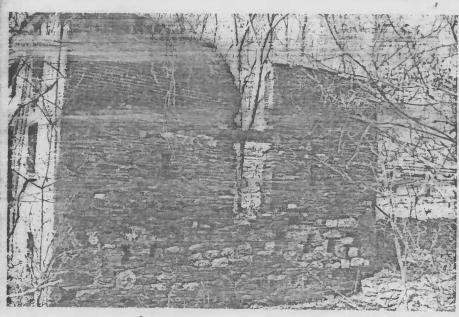
PLAT OF TRACT CONTAINING CLOPPER MILL

Note: Line A-B lies along the southern edge of Clopper Road, along the short east-west stretch immediately north of the ruins of Clopper mill. The overlay can be oriented approximately on either the U.S.G.S. quad of Germantown, Md., or the 1:24000 Road Atlas of Montgomery County. Maryland Grid coordinates (in feet) are given for the end points along the Clopper Road right of way.

19-21 Chappen bust Mill top- South 1 East Facades South Facade East Faude M:19-21







19-21 Cloppie Grist Mill South West Facades Interior - South Wall M:19-21



Clopper Grist Mill
Clopper Road at the Great Seneca
Creek

Mont.Cty.Hist.Soc.





M 19-21 CLOPPER MILL RUINS CLOPPER RD., SENECA CREEK S.P. 2/19 SOUTH FAÇADE